CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

96-HOUR REPORT

3 JANUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Violent Crime Increases for Third Straight Year
(U) Violent crime increased in Los Angeles for the third straight year as police tried to stem a rash of homicides and gang-related shootings while dealing with a growing homeless population. With more than 290 people killed in the city in 2016, homicides also rose for the third year in a row. Still, the city remains far safer than a decade ago, when 480 people were killed and there were 46% more robberies than this year. According to statistics from the Los Angeles Police Department, robberies were up by 13%, aggravated assaults were up by 10% and rapes were down by 4% through 17 December 2016, compared with the same period last year. Homicides were up by 5%.
SOURCE: 30 December 2016, Los Angeles Times

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Illinois – Chicago Records 762 Homicides in Historically Violent 2016
(U) Chicago – One of the most violent years in Chicago history ended with a sobering tally: 762 homicides, the most in two decades in the city and more than New York and Los Angeles combined. The nation's third largest city also saw 1,100 more shooting incidents last year than it did in 2015, according to data released Sunday by the Chicago Police Department. The increase in homicides compared to 2015, when 485 were reported, is the largest spike in 60 years.
SOURCE: 1 January 2017, Associated Press

(U) Pennsylvania – Man Accused of Killing Trooper Shot Dead
(U) Harrisburg – A man who authorities believe shot and killed a Pennsylvania State Police trooper on Friday was killed Saturday during a confrontation with the officers pursuing him, authorities said. State police said they found Jason Robison on Saturday morning at an unoccupied mobile home not far from his own home in Huntington County. Robison had been the subject of a growing manhunt since police believe he shot Trooper Landon Weaver on Friday. Weaver was responding to a domestic violence call when he was killed.
SOURCE: 31 December 2016, The Washington Post

(U) Vermont – Utility Company Finds Malware Linked to Russian Hackers
(U) Burlington – A Vermont electricity provider said it found malware linked to an alleged Russian campaign to hack political entities in a laptop, after US utilities were warned about the "Grizzly Steppe" affiliated code by the federal government. The infected laptop is not connected to the Burlington Electric Department's electricity grid systems, the municipal utility said in a statement. "We took immediate action to isolate the laptop and alerted federal officials of this finding," the statement said. "Our team is working with federal officials to trace this malware and prevent any other attempts to infiltrate utility systems."
SOURCE: 31 December 2016, NBC News

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) China – China Arrests 67 for Involvement in Mafia-Style Gang
(U) Beijing – A court in the eastern Chinese province of Anhui has handed out sentences of up to 20 years in jail for 67 people involved in a mafia-style gang that engaged in gambling, extortion and violence. The leader of the gang, Xing Zhaogang, was released from jail in 2012 after serving time for violent assault, but then returned to a life of crime and became a "gambling lord" in Anhui. Between October 2014 and April 2015, Xing's gang made $2.9 million in profits from their underground gambling operation, and beat up and threatened those seen as rivals.
SOURCE: 1 January 2017, Reuters

(U) Turkey – ISIL Claims Responsibility for Nightclub Attack in Turkey
(U) Istanbul – The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility yesterday for the shooting rampage at an Istanbul nightclub that left 39 dead and scores wounded, including an American who said he played dead to avoid additional gunshots. Turkish authorities said they detained eight people in connection with the attack in the early hours of New Year's Day, but a manhunt for the gunman continued. The attack was revenge for Turkish military involvement in Syria, ISIL said in a statement released through Aamaq News Agency, which has ties to the militant group.
SOURCE: 2 January 2017, USA Today

(U) Ukraine – Ukraine Hit by 6500 Cyberattacks
(U) Kiev – Hackers have targeted Ukrainian state institutions about 6,500 times in the past two months, including incidents that showed Russian security services were waging a cyberwar against the country, President Petro Poroshenko said last week. In December, Ukraine suffered attacks on its finance and defense ministries and the State Treasury that allocates cash to government institutions. A suspected hack also wiped out part of Kiev's power grid, causing a blackout in part of the capital. Cyber security firm CrowdStrike said last week a hacking group linked to the Russian government likely used a malware implant on Android devices to track and target Ukrainian artillery units from late 2014 through 2016.
SOURCE: 29 December 2016, Reuters

(U) United Kingdom – UK Minister Sees Threat of ISIL Chemical Attack in Britain
(U) London – ISIL militants have aspirations to launch mass-casualty chemical attacks on targets in Britain and elsewhere in Europe, the British security minister said in a newspaper interview published on Sunday. Islamic State used sulfur mustard gas in an attack on the Syrian town of Marea in August 2015, according to global watchdog the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Ben Wallace also said British authorities feared that as the militant group was driven out of strongholds in the Middle East such as the Iraqi city of Mosul, Britons fighting for the group would return home and pose a growing domestic threat.
SOURCE: 1 January 2017, Reuters

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